

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the non-final office action mailed October 31, 2007. Claims 1-23 are pending in this application, of which claims 5, 6, 9-12 and 15-22 have been withdrawn. By this amendment, claims 1-10, 12 and 13 have been amended and new claim 23 has been added. The claim amendments and new claim 23 are supported by the application as originally filed.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 23 are respectfully requested.

Claim rejections

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,261,978 to Brenman (Brenman). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brenman in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0053190 to Lin (Lin).

Independent claim 1 recites a toothbrush having, among other features, the following:

an ultra-violet light source in said handle;
a plurality of emitters in said cleaning field to radiate ultra-violet light toward the user's teeth for activating an optical brightener on the user's teeth to create a visual whitening effect; and
a plurality of light pipes, each light pipe transmitting ultraviolet light from said ultra-violet light source to one of said plurality of emitters.

Emphasis added. At least this subject matter is not taught or suggested by Brenman.

In contrast, Brenman discloses a toothbrush having an incandescent lamp 34 in its handle 32 (see Fig. 5) and a head 36 "manufactured of a Lucite main body 38." Col. 2, lines 51-52. Light from the incandescent lamp is transmitted through the Lucite main body to the bristles 40, which are secured in a polished portion 42 of the Lucite main body. "The polished portion 42 has a suitable filter 46 placed thereover which allows only radiation having a wave length of 3650 angstrom units to pass therethrough." Col. 2, lines 57-59.

Clearly, Brenman fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of a plurality of light pipes that each transmits ultraviolet light from an ultra-violet light source to an emitter in a cleaning field of the toothbrush. Lin does not overcome these deficiencies of Brenman nor was it relied upon to do so.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 13 and 14 depending therefrom, are allowable over Brenman, either alone or in combination with Lin.

New claim 23

New claim 23 depends from independent claim 1 and recites subject matter pertaining to the light pipes including fiber optic devices, which is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 23 is allowable along with independent claim 1 and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

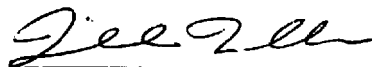
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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